

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 9, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES, of Florida, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4606.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4606) authorizing the President to appoint Drs. Thomas Owens and William Martin assistant surgeons in the United States Navy, not in the line of promotion, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report, viz :*

The committee, upon the examination of the papers and records furnished by the Navy Department, find that Dr. Owens was ordered before a medical examining board for examination, under the act of Congress approved February 15, 1879, to abolish the volunteer Navy, and that the said board found him unable to proceed with his examination on account of sickness, which originated in the line of duty in the Navy. The provision of said act provided, "That in the event of physical disqualification which occurred in the line of duty, such officer may, upon the recommendation of a retiring board, be placed upon the retired list. In compliance with this provision he was ordered to appear before the retiring board, which board found him unfit for active service then, from causes originating in the line of duty, but, acting under the advice of the medical officers attached thereto, declined at that time to place him upon the retired list. After reappearing before the medical examining board, and proceeding with his professional examination, under the disadvantageous circumstances of his sickness, he was compelled to withdraw therefrom, by advice of his then attending physician, Medical Inspector Philip S. Wales, United States Navy, who recommended a change of climate as being necessary for his health.

The medical examining board, in their report to the honorable Secretary of the Navy, recommended Dr. Owens to be placed on the active list as an assistant surgeon not in the line of promotion, stating that he was compelled to withdraw from his examination on account of sickness which originated in the line of duty in the Navy. The honorable Secretary of the Navy approves the recommendation of the board and recommends favorable action by Congress.

The committee also report that the medical examining board made same recommendation in the case of Dr. William Martin, which is also approved by the honorable Secretary of the Navy, and the committee recommend the passage of the House bill.

